

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 409 612

EA 028 465

AUTHOR Bracey, Gerald W.
TITLE Final Exam: A Study of the Perpetual Scrutiny of American Education. Historical Perspectives on Assessment, Standards, Outcomes, and Criticism of U.S. Public Schools.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-7842-0807-7
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 248p.
AVAILABLE FROM TECHNOS Press, Agency for Instructional Technology, Box A, Bloomington, IN 47402-0120 (\$24.98).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Opinion Papers (120)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Academic Standards; *Educational Assessment; Elementary Secondary Education; Evaluation Criteria; *Outcomes of Education; Performance; *Public Education; *School Restructuring; Scores; Student Evaluation

ABSTRACT

American public education has gradually evolved from a focus on the "disciplined mind" attainable by only a few to a focus on observable outcomes, purportedly attainable by all. This book offers a historical study of assessment, standards, outcomes, and criticism in U.S. public schools. Chapter 1 provides a selective history of education, focusing on the criticism of public schools and the attempts to reform them. Chapter 2 provides a short history of testing and assessment, particularly as it pertains to the testing and assessment of school achievement: (1) how achievement has been measured; (2) to what uses the assessment has been put; and (3) what those who developed measurements assumed about schools and the nature of learning. The third and fourth chapters describe the evolution of educational standards and outcomes-driven assessments. The book concludes that public schools have performed relatively well, given the unrealistic expectations placed upon them. However, not everyone can learn, the American education system cannot educate everyone, and society cannot permit all children to learn (educated people will not collect garbage). There are too many technical problems with many of the standards projects to make them feasible. Standards-based reform fails to address many of the country's most pressing educational issues, such as social inequalities, the provision of educational opportunities, and the creation of viable jobs. Endnotes accompany the chapters. (Contains 11 references.) (LMI)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
